



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

WHEREAS, Doctor Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th in the year 1929; and

WHEREAS, his family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta began with his grandfather in 1914; and

WHEREAS, he was pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and led the first modern African American nonviolent demonstration in the United States, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 382 days during which he was subject to arrest, abuse, intimidation and attack; and

WHEREAS, in December 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, he traveled over six million miles, spoke over 2,500 times, wrote five books and numerous articles, was awarded numerous honorary degrees, planned the drives in Alabama for African American voter registration, was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C. and delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to roughly 250,000 people; and


WHEREAS, he was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of thirty five, the monetary award from which he announced would be turned over to the furtherance of the civil rights movement; and


WHEREAS, on the evening of April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march, he was assassinated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2012 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of this day.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 13th day of January, 2012


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor


A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State